



News from the Office of
ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK POLONCARZ

NEWS RELEASE

**Health Commissioner
Dr. Gale Burstein**

July 3, 2012

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BURSTEIN CALLS ATTENTION TO CANCER RATES IN ERIE COUNTY

Prostate, Breast Cancer Mortality Rates Indicate that Residents Still Suffer

ERIE COUNTY, NY— Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein today issued a statement regarding the incidence and mortality rates of prostate and breast cancer in Erie County, underlining their serious nature and the fact that people still suffer from these diseases. Former-Erie County Executive Chris Collins recently stated in an interview, “People now don’t die from prostate cancer, breast cancer and some of the other things.”¹

“All types of cancer, including prostate and breast cancer, have significant mortality rates associated with them. During 2005-2009, Erie County saw an annual average of 826 cases of female breast cancer, with an average of 176 deaths per year. For prostate cancer in the same period, the annual average was 930 cases, with an average of 103 deaths per year.”

“These numbers represent the sad reality that, despite advances in cancer treatments, people still die from these types of cancers. It is imperative that people not only be aware of the potential risks from all types of cancers but get appropriately screened and checked as recommended by your doctor for breast and prostate cancer.”

For more information on Erie County cancer statistics, visit:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/vol1/v1cerie.htm>

For more information on the Erie County Health Department, visit: <http://www2.erie.gov/health/>

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¹ Owens, Howard (2011-6-24). Chris Collins wants to go to Washington to restore the American Dream. *The Batavian*: Retrieved from <http://thebatavian.com/howard-owens/chris-collins-wants-go-washington-restore-american-dream/32549>